

Current Affairs of the Day

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➤ International Relations:

1. Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women

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➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

1. Conservationists elated as tiger numbers up
2. Project Tiger
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➤ Disaster Management:

1. Institutional structure for disaster management
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3. State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)
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Conservationists elated as tiger numbers up

- Of the 3,980 tigers left in the world, India, with 2,226, accounts for 75%. The magnificent animal is at the top of the food pyramid and is vital to maintain the ecosystem.
- A massive conservation effort spearheaded by the Forest Department and many global NGOs has started showing results as is evident from the tangible increase in the population of tigers.

Tiger census:

- The **Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR)** is the largest one in the country and it is here the number of big cats is on the rise. According to the tiger census carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (2018) and released on July 29, 2019, Andhra Pradesh has 48 adult tigers and Telangana 26.

Value Added Information

Project Tiger:

- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched in April 1973 by the Government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure.
- The project aims at ensuring a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats, protecting them from extinction, and preserving areas of biological importance as a natural heritage forever represented as close as possible the diversity of ecosystems across the distribution of tigers in the country.
- The project's task force visualized these tiger reserves as breeding nuclei, from which surplus animals would migrate to adjacent forests.
- Funds and commitment were mastered to support the intensive program of habitat protection and rehabilitation under the project.
- The government has set up a Tiger Protection Force to combat poachers and funded relocation of villagers to minimize human-tiger conflicts.
- Project Tiger was launched in Jim Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand in 1973 by National Tiger Conservation Authorities (NTCA).



Institutional structure for disaster management

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is fighting against the COVID-19; Floods in Assam and Bihar.

Value Added Information

About National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):

- NDRF was established in 2006 under The Disaster Management Act, 2005
- It comes under Ministry of Home Affairs
- It is the only dedicated disaster response force in the world
- It works under National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) which lays down policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management.
- Capabilities for undertaking disaster response, prevention, mitigation and capacity building
- At present there are 12 battalions in NDRF (three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB) which are deployed strategically across country to provide immediate response.
- All battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural and man-made disasters including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.
- The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** deals with the management of disasters. This act envisaged a three tier Disaster Management structure in India at National, States and District levels.
- Under the act, the NDMA, SDMA, NEC, NDRF, NIDM and disaster related funds were established.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

- It is a National Authority responsible for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management and for ensuring timely and effective response to disaster.
- It consists of nine members with prime minister as its ex-officio chairperson.



National Executive Committee (NEC):

NEC is responsible for assisting NDMA in execution of various functions for disaster management like –

- Implementing the plans and policies of NDMA;
- Ensuring compliance with the directives of Central Government;
- To act as a coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management;
- Prepare the National Plan to be approved by the NDMA;
- Prepare guidelines for different ministries with respect to disaster management.

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA):

- A state Disaster Management Authority is established by every state government.
- The Chief Minister of the state is the chairperson of SDMA. There are maximum 9 members other than the chairperson.

State Executive Committee (SEC):

- The state government also creates a State Executive Committee to assist the State Authority in the performance of its functions and to coordinate action in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the State Authority and ensure the compliance of directions issued by the State Authority.
- Its powers and functions are almost a replica of the NEC at state level.

District Disaster Management Authority:

- The DDMA are set up by state government via a notification in the state budget. It consists of Chairperson and seven members. The collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner would be the chairman.
- The DDMA works as a district planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management.
- It will coordinate with the upper two tiers of the structure and will plan the implementation of the prevention, mitigation and preparedness at local level.



National Disaster Response Fund:

- For meeting any threatening disaster situation or disaster. The central government will be able to use the money from this fund to meet expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.

National Institute of Disaster Management:

- It is responsible for planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management.
- It is a premier national organization working for human resource development at national level in the area of disaster management.

Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women

- Poland to withdraw from Istanbul Convention. It alleged that the convention was “harmful” because it required schools to teach children about gender.
- The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party and its coalition partners are closely aligned to the Catholic Church, and the government has promised to promote traditional family values.

Value Added Information

About Istanbul Convention:

- The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, better known as the Istanbul Convention, is a human rights treaty of the Council of Europe against violence against women and domestic violence.
- The convention aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and “to end with the impunity of perpetrators”.

Conservation of River Nag

- Bombay High Court recently noted that the Nag river, from which Nagpur city derives its name used to be a vibrant and clear rivulet. It warned that Industrialisation has reduced Nag river to a cursed lady.
- The Bench said unless a comprehensive plan dealing with all aspects of the clean-up, beautification and maintenance of the river is drawn up, “no



major success in restoring the river to its original state is going to be achieved”.

- The river serves as drainage for Nagpur and as a result its ecosystem is heavily polluted by urban waste from the city.

Facts:

- Nag River Rejuvenation was cleared by National River Conservation Directorate in November 2019.
- Share of Centre in the project is 60%, 25% of state and remaining 15% of Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC).
- Japan International Cooperation Agency is expected to approve long term loan for shares of Centre and State. France-based AFD (French Development Agency) is preparing the Detailed Project Report and likely to approve long term loan for the project.
- Expected cost for Rejuvenation and Beautification is approx. 1600 crores.